

The National Citizen Survey™

Bloomington, MN

Comparisons by Geographic
Subgroups

2014

Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. This report discusses differences in opinion of survey respondents by council district.

Responses in the following tables show only the proportion of respondents giving a certain answer; for example, the percent of respondents who rated the quality of life as “excellent” or “good,” or the percent of respondents who attended a public meeting more than once a month. ANOVA and chi-square tests of significance were applied to these comparisons of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between Districts are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed are “real.” Where differences were statistically significant, they have been shaded grey.

The margin of error for this report is generally no greater than plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (1,171 completed surveys). For each Council District, the margin of error rises to approximately plus or minus seven percentage points since sample sizes were approximately 253 for District 1, 387 for District 2, 345 for District 3 and 187 for District 4. Notable differences between Districts included the following:

- Residents in District 4 tended to give lower ratings for Community Characteristics than residents in other Districts. District 4 residents gave lower ratings for General aspects of Community Characteristics including overall quality of life, overall image or reputation of Bloomington, Bloomington as a place to live, their neighborhoods as a place to live and Bloomington as a place to raise children. When differences were observed within other facets of Community Characteristics, District 4 tended to give the lowest ratings.
- When differences in ratings were observed within the pillar of Governance, District 4 tended to give the lowest ratings. There were a few aspects of Governance that were rated the lowest by Districts 2 or 3.
- Across most facets of Participation rates tended to be the lowest for residents in District 4. However, within the facets of Safety and Mobility, District 3 residents had the lowest rates.

Table 1: Community Characteristics - General

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
The overall quality of life in Bloomington	89%	91%	92%	79%	88%
Overall image or reputation of Bloomington	82%	86%	86%	76%	83%
Bloomington as a place to live	95%	95%	95%	89%	94%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	90%	93%	92%	74%	88%
Bloomington as a place to raise children	90%	93%	92%	79%	89%
Bloomington as a place to retire	64%	66%	74%	69%	69%
Overall appearance of Bloomington	76%	85%	85%	78%	82%

Table 2: Community Characteristics - Safety

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington	89%	92%	87%	79%	87%
In your neighborhood during the day	97%	99%	99%	94%	97%
In Bloomington's shopping areas during the day	92%	93%	95%	91%	93%

Table 3: Community Characteristics - Mobility

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	88%	81%	79%	82%	82%
Traffic flow on major streets	70%	66%	61%	67%	65%
Ease of travel by car in Bloomington	80%	79%	73%	76%	76%
Ease of travel by public transportation in Bloomington	54%	41%	36%	60%	47%
Ease of travel by bicycle in Bloomington	53%	64%	54%	56%	57%
Ease of walking in Bloomington	67%	83%	68%	60%	70%
Availability of paths and walking trails	73%	87%	76%	70%	78%

Table 4: Community Characteristics - Natural Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Quality of overall natural environment in Bloomington	87%	94%	87%	79%	87%
Air quality	84%	95%	88%	78%	87%
Cleanliness of Bloomington	78%	86%	86%	72%	82%

Table 5: Community Characteristics - Built Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall "built environment" of Bloomington (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	79%	78%	72%	67%	73%
Public places where people want to spend time	74%	82%	79%	74%	78%
Variety of housing options	68%	78%	73%	74%	74%
Availability of affordable quality housing	59%	60%	70%	56%	62%
Overall quality of new development in Bloomington	65%	63%	72%	65%	67%

Table 6: Community Characteristics - Economy

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall economic health of Bloomington	82%	86%	84%	78%	83%
Bloomington as a place to work	80%	85%	87%	83%	85%
Bloomington as a place to visit	77%	81%	84%	76%	80%
Employment opportunities	62%	65%	64%	62%	63%
Shopping opportunities	87%	87%	92%	85%	88%
Cost of living in Bloomington	61%	60%	62%	53%	59%
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Bloomington	75%	80%	80%	67%	77%
Vibrant shopping areas	72%	69%	70%	68%	70%

Table 7: Community Characteristics - Recreation and Wellness

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington	82%	85%	82%	73%	81%
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	78%	86%	83%	67%	80%
Recreational opportunities	76%	84%	80%	68%	78%
Availability of affordable quality food	72%	78%	78%	70%	75%
Availability of affordable quality health care	72%	79%	77%	70%	76%
Availability of preventive health services	71%	84%	80%	70%	78%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	46%	69%	68%	53%	62%

Table 8: Community Characteristics - Education and Enrichment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	81%	85%	87%	75%	83%
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	75%	77%	70%	65%	71%
K-12 education	82%	85%	83%	76%	82%
Adult educational opportunities	77%	80%	86%	77%	81%
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	68%	80%	78%	67%	75%

Table 9: Community Characteristics - Community Engagement

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	62%	68%	70%	62%	67%
Opportunities to volunteer	69%	81%	81%	76%	78%
Opportunities to participate in community matters	61%	70%	76%	69%	71%
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	60%	68%	68%	62%	65%
Neighborhoodliness of residents in Bloomington	63%	67%	69%	52%	64%

Table 10: Governance - General

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
The City of Bloomington	80%	87%	88%	82%	85%
The value of services for the taxes paid to Bloomington	68%	66%	65%	63%	65%
The overall direction that Bloomington is taking	72%	76%	75%	69%	74%
The job Bloomington government does at welcoming citizen involvement	62%	68%	59%	49%	60%
Overall confidence in Bloomington government	64%	72%	70%	62%	68%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	70%	76%	74%	65%	72%
Being honest	75%	73%	77%	68%	74%
Treating all residents fairly	70%	74%	74%	58%	70%
Overall customer service by Bloomington employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	78%	83%	85%	76%	82%
The Federal Government	41%	41%	37%	46%	41%

Table 11: Governance - Safety

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Police services	87%	90%	90%	87%	89%
Fire services	94%	95%	96%	95%	95%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	88%	93%	95%	94%	93%
Crime prevention	86%	87%	81%	77%	83%
Fire prevention and education	87%	89%	88%	86%	88%
Animal control	73%	80%	71%	69%	73%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	78%	74%	77%	71%	75%

Table 12: Governance - Mobility

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Traffic enforcement	77%	77%	75%	67%	74%
Street repair	37%	34%	38%	34%	36%
Street cleaning	68%	74%	70%	65%	70%
Street lighting	63%	70%	72%	66%	69%
Snow removal	78%	78%	79%	72%	77%
Sidewalk maintenance	62%	64%	71%	49%	62%
Traffic signal timing	62%	56%	60%	49%	57%
Bus or transit services	63%	51%	58%	62%	58%

Table 13: Governance - Natural Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Garbage collection	86%	89%	86%	80%	85%
Recycling	87%	90%	87%	80%	86%
Yard waste pick-up	83%	87%	83%	81%	83%
Drinking water	85%	92%	92%	81%	88%
Preservation of natural areas such as open space and greenbelts	71%	82%	78%	63%	75%
Bloomington open space	73%	76%	76%	64%	73%

Table 14: Governance - Built Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Storm drainage	77%	82%	78%	76%	78%
Sewer services	86%	90%	92%	73%	86%
Utility billing	81%	83%	82%	74%	80%
Land use, planning and zoning	60%	75%	71%	63%	69%
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	56%	71%	66%	52%	63%
Cable television	58%	58%	51%	53%	54%

Table 15: Governance - Economy

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Economic development	68%	75%	71%	69%	72%

Table 16: Governance - Recreation and Wellness

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
City parks	81%	91%	90%	80%	87%
Recreation programs or classes	78%	83%	87%	79%	83%
Recreation centers or facilities	77%	85%	85%	74%	81%
Health services	73%	86%	82%	80%	81%

Table 17: Governance - Education and Enrichment

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
City-sponsored special events	66%	79%	79%	71%	76%

Table 18: Governance - Community Engagement

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Public information services	71%	81%	80%	74%	78%

Table 19: Participation General

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Sense of community	64%	62%	67%	64%	64%
Recommend living in Bloomington to someone who asks	92%	93%	94%	93%	93%
Remain in Bloomington for the next five years	81%	85%	87%	88%	86%
Contacted the City of Bloomington (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	49%	46%	52%	43%	48%

Table 20: Participation - Safety

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Was NOT the victim of a crime	93%	92%	92%	93%	92%
Did NOT report a crime	81%	86%	89%	84%	86%
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	27%	26%	17%	28%	23%

Table 21: Participation - Mobility

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Walked or biked instead of driving	65%	52%	49%	58%	54%
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	51%	40%	38%	43%	41%
Used bus, light rail or other public transportation instead of driving	48%	34%	33%	58%	41%

Table 22: Participation - Natural Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Recycle at home	92%	95%	96%	89%	94%
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	75%	74%	75%	72%	74%
Made efforts to conserve water	83%	78%	75%	75%	77%

Table 23: Participation - Built Environment

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
NOT under housing cost stress	72%	76%	74%	58%	70%
Did NOT observe a code violation	59%	73%	70%	63%	68%

Table 24: Participation - Economy

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Bloomington	97%	99%	98%	93%	97%
Economy will have positive impact on income	32%	30%	30%	25%	29%
Work in Bloomington	33%	29%	34%	33%	32%

Table 25: Participation - Recreation and Wellness

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Used Bloomington recreation centers or their services	57%	65%	56%	53%	58%
Visited a neighborhood park or City park	83%	91%	83%	76%	84%
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	86%	87%	86%	75%	84%
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	91%	90%	90%	79%	88%
Reported being in "very good" or "excellent" health	63%	72%	70%	54%	66%

Table 26: Participation - Education and Enrichment

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Bloomington	49%	52%	52%	44%	50%
Attended a City-sponsored event	45%	47%	44%	38%	43%

Table 27: Participation - Community Engagement

Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	21%	17%	20%	12%	18%
Contacted Bloomington elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	13%	14%	17%	14%	15%
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Bloomington	34%	36%	37%	32%	35%
Participated in a club	25%	22%	28%	20%	24%
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	95%	93%	94%	87%	92%
Done a favor for a neighbor	80%	84%	86%	80%	83%
Attended a local public meeting	14%	13%	17%	10%	14%
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	31%	19%	21%	30%	24%
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	89%	91%	92%	87%	90%
Vote in local elections	83%	87%	87%	78%	84%

Table 28: Community Focus Areas

Percent rating positively (e.g., essential/very important)	Council District				Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	
Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington	89%	95%	95%	90%	93%
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	85%	80%	83%	80%	82%
Quality of overall natural environment in Bloomington	87%	86%	82%	80%	83%
Overall "built environment" of Bloomington (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	75%	79%	74%	74%	76%
Health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington	72%	68%	68%	71%	69%
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	75%	73%	74%	76%	75%
Overall economic health of Bloomington	89%	92%	90%	82%	89%
Sense of community	74%	74%	74%	76%	74%